

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 18 (CANCELED)

19. (NEW) A multi-cell Li-ion or Li-ion polymer battery formed in accordance with the following method:

a) stacking a plurality of cell sections, to form a cell body, each of said cell sections being essentially flat and having at least one flat, metallic current collector tab extending therefrom, said cell body having a planar upper surface and a planar lower surface with said current collector tabs extending from an end of said cell body in aligned, parallel relationship;

b) gathering said current collector tabs into a stack at a location offset from said cell body, said location being outside an area defined between said upper surface and said lower surface of said cell body;

c) compressing and welding ends of said tabs together at said location to form a tab weldment; and

d) folding said tabs about an axis disposed within said area defined by said upper surface and said lower surface to position said tab weldment adjacent to said end of said cell body with said tabs and said tab weldment disposed within said area defined by said upper and lower planar surfaces.

20. (NEW) A multi-cell Li-ion or Li-ion polymer battery as defined in claim 19, further comprising a lead comprised of a thin, metallic strip welded to said tab weldment, wherein two layers of said metallic strip are disposed between said tab weldment and said one side of said cell body when said tab weldment is folded into said generally U-shaped configuration.

21. (NEW) A multi-cell Li-ion or Li-ion polymer battery as defined in claim 20, wherein said metallic strip is wrapped around said tab weldment.

22. (NEW) A multi-cell Li-ion or Li-ion polymer battery as defined in claim 21, wherein said collector tabs are comprised of metallic mesh and said lead is a strip of solid metal having a width approximately equal to the width of said current collector tabs.